

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01468 260648Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
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O R 251450Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1005
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1468

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARAS 3 & 4)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MILI, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON - FROM HERE TO WITHDRAWAL

REF: JERUSALEM 1460

1. OUR UN SOURCE HAS PROVIDED ACCOUNT OF SIILASVUO'S MEETING
WITH EITAN MAY 24 AND WEIZMAN MAY 25.

2. EITAN STATED IDF WILL WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON BY
JUNE 13 AS ANNOUNCED BY GOI. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO AVOID
MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN
ENCLAVES, HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN HIS POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT.
EITAN SAID INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGES IN THE CHRISTIAN
AND THE SHIA ENCLAVES ARE LEBANESE CITIZENS WHO, DURING PAST
TWO YEARS, HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DEFEND THEIR VILLAGES AGAINST
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HOSTILE ELEMENTS. THIS WAS THE SITUATION WHEN THE IDF ENTERED
LEBANON "AND IT COULD NOT BE CHANGED UPON IDF WITHDRAWAL."
EITAN INDICATED THAT THE RESIDENTS OF THE ENCLAVES ARE VERY
SENSITIVE AND DOUBTFUL THAT UNIFIL WOULD PREVENT THE
INFILTRATION OF HOSTILE ELEMENTS INTO THEIR AREA.

3. EITAN STRESSED HE WOULD EXPECT UNIFIL NOT TO ENTER INTO

ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE ENCLAVES EXACTLY AS UNIFIL AVOIDED CONFRONTATION WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE TYRE POCKET. BECAUSE THE RESIDENTS OF THE ENCLAVES ARE AFRAID THAT UNIFIL MAY TRY TO DISARM OR RESTRICT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND MOVEMENT, THEY ARE DETERMINED TO OPPOSE UNIFIL MILITARY CONTROL OF THEIR VILLAGES.

4. GIVEN THE SITUATION, EITAN BELIEVES THAT THE BEST COMPROMISE WOULD BE FOR UNIFIL TO MAN THE FIVE UNTSO OBSERVATION POSTS ALONG THE BORDER WITH ONE PLATOON AT EACH POST. UNIFIL SHOULD ALSO, HE SAID, BE PERMITTED TO PATROL THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER IN COORDINATION WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK.

5. SIILASVUO EXPLAINED GOL AUTHORITIES ARE AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER THE MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THE ENCLAVES AS PART OF THE LEBANESE ARMY, PROVIDED THAT THEY SUBMIT TO THE ORDERS AND DISCIPLINE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY'S CHAIN OF COMMAND. HOWEVER, SIILASVUO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE COMPROMISE OFFERED BY EITAN WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT LIMITED AND RESTRICTED UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN THE ENCLAVES. SIILASVUO SAID IT WOULD BE INADEQUATE TO HAVE UNIFIL TAKE OVER AN AREA FROM THE IDF IN WHICH THE FORMER WOULD BE RESTRICTED IN ITS DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES. IN HIS OPINION, UNIFIL SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST A MEANINGFUL DEPLOYMENT IN ALL MAJOR VILLAGES AND CENTERS IN THE ENCLAVES.

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6. BETWEEN ABOVE MEETING AND CONVERSATION WITH WEIZMAN, SIILASVUO RECEIVED GUIDANCE FROM UNNY TO CONVEY FOLLOWING: (A) UN CANNOT ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND MOVEMENT IN ANY PART OF AREA OF OPERATIONS. (B) POSITION OF GOL IN MAY 24 COMMUNIQUE IS AS FOLLOWS: "THE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY OVER THE SOUTH PRESUPPOSES TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE PREVENTION OF ANY ARMED ELEMENT, WHICH IS NOT UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, TO INFILTRATE OR UNDERTAKE ANY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA UNDER THE UNIFIL MANDATE." UN INTERPRETS THIS AS MEANING IT HAS NO RIGHT TO ACCEPT ANY OTHER AUTHORITY IN THE AREA EXCEPT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND FORCES UNDER ITS COMMAND. UNLESS MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THE ENCLAVES SUBMIT TO ORDERS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY'S CHAIN OF COMMAND, THEY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. (C) MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ENCLAVES SHOULD BE CONFINED IN BARRACKS AND MADE INACTIVE. IN SUCH A CASE, UNIFIL WOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY FUNCTION TO PROTECT CIVIL POPULATIONS FROM THREATS EMANATING FROM ANY SOURCE AS IT DOES IN THE REST OF THE ZONE. (D) UNIFIL SHOULD HAVE A MEANINGFUL DEPLOYMENT IN ALL MAJOR VILLAGES AND CENTERS IN THE ENCLAVES AND SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO MANNING OBSERVATION POSTS AND PATROLLING INTERNATIONAL BORDER.

7. ABOVE WAS CONVEYED TO WEIZMAN BY SIILASVUO WHO TOOK NOTE
AND SAID HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH, PROBABLY WITHIN A WEEK.

8. SIILASVUO WILL VISIT CAIRO MAY 26 FOR PURELY SOCIAL DINNER
WITH FINNISH AMBASSADOR.
NEWLIN

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